

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 1, Line 4, entitled "Related Applications" with the following:

This application is a continuation of pending application no. 10/420,057 +0/420,054 filed April 18, 2003 which is a continuation of application no. 09/667,199 filed September 21, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,565,509 B1, which is a continuation of application no 09/070,677 filed April 30, 1998 now U.S. Patent No. 6,175,752 B1, the disclosure of each of which are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, and each of which are assigned to assignee, TheraSense, Inc., of Alameda, CA.

Respectfully submitted,  
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